



**AGENDA  
COUNTY OF SONOMA  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – SPECIAL MEETING**

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**Thursday, February 22, 2024**

**5:30PM**

**Hybrid**

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**First District:** Howard Sapper (Officer-at-Large), Sarah Kerlow

**Second District:** Yensi Jacobo, Andrew Lemarquand, Sadie Ferguson

**Third District:** Katrina Phillips (Chair), Isabel Lopez, Liz Cruz Reyes

**Fourth District:** Trevor Merrell

**Fifth District:** Nichole Warwick (Vice Chair)

**Commissioner Lemarquand will be participating in the meeting virtually via Zoom per Gov't. Code Section 54953(b) at this location: 1094 Petaluma Blvd S, Petaluma, CA 94952.**

**MEETING INFORMATION:**

The February 22, 2024 Commission on Human Rights Special Meeting will be facilitated in person. Members of the public can watch, listen, or join the meeting using one of the three following methods:

**1. JOIN IN PERSON:**

Board of Supervisors Chambers

575 Administration Drive 102A

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Limited seating is available for public participants.

**2. JOIN VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM:**

Participate by computer, table, or smartphone application. Go to:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99356615285?pwd=UUISNIIIDQkUvTitzTWQ5bnNkL2NBUT09>

Webinar ID: 993 5661 5285

Passcode: 575862

**3. JOIN IN ZOOM BY TELEPHONE:**

Dial +1 (669) 900 9128

Webinar ID: 993 5661 5285

Passcode: 575862

**Instructions for the Public:**

In accordance with AB 361, Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic, Sonoma County Public Health Officer's Recommendation for Teleconference Meetings, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution 21-0399, the Commission on Human Rights meetings will be facilitated using a dual format with listening and participation

available through Zoom and in person.

**Agendas and Materials:** Agendas and most supporting materials are available on the Commission's website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Human-Rights/Calendar/> Due to legal, copyright, privacy or policy considerations, not all materials are posted online. **Materials that are not posted will be available directly from the Commission at [chr@sonoma-county.org](mailto:chr@sonoma-county.org).**

**Disabled Accommodation:** If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the Deputy Clerk at (707) 565-1851, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

**Approval of the Consent Calendar:** The Consent Calendar includes routine financial and administrative actions that are usually approved by a single majority vote. There will be no discussion on these items prior to voting on the motion unless Commission Members request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar.

**Public Comment:** Any member of the audience desiring to address the Commission on a matter on the agenda: Members of the public are invited to join this meeting via Zoom teleconferencing. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the subject under discussion. Each person is usually granted two minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair. While members of the public are welcome to address the Commission, under the Brown Act, Commission members may not deliberate or take any action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

**Commitment to Civil Engagement:** All are encouraged to engage in respectful dialog that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. Commissioners, Staff, and the public are encouraged to:

- Create an atmosphere of respect and civility where Commissioners, County Staff, and the Public are free to express their ideas within the time and content parameters established by the Brown Act and CHR's standard Parliamentary procedures (Robert's Rules of Order);
- Establish and maintain a cordial and respectful atmosphere during discussions;
- Foster meaningful dialogue free of attacks of a personal nature and/or attacks based on age, (dis)ability, class, education level, gender, gender identity, occupation, race and/or ethnicity, sexual orientation;
- Listen with an open mind to all information, including dissenting points of view, regarding issues presented to the Commission;
- Recognize it is sometimes difficult to speak at meetings, and out of respect for each person's perspective, allow speakers to have their say without comment or body gestures, including booing, whistling, or clapping.

**I. CALL TO ORDER – MISSION STATEMENT – ROLL CALL – PHILLIPS**

**II. SPECIAL CALENDAR –CEASEFIRE LETTER**

The Commission on Human Rights will review and approve the revised content of the letter.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**



February 22, 2024

In light of the ongoing global conflicts causing severe human rights violations, the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights extends this appeal to all parties involved and affected community members. Acknowledging that the impact of armed conflict reverberates through generations, we understand that healing begins with a collective commitment to ending violence in all its forms. As a nation with a long legacy of violence, including slavery and the genocide of Indigenous Peoples, that evolved to comprise many people from around the world who also experienced genocide and acts of inhumanity, we understand that international conflicts impact us here at home and within our local communities. The Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights calls upon all conflicting parties to unite in building bridges between communities, championing protections for all humans, regardless of any descriptor, and advocating for an end to armed conflicts worldwide.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” - James Baldwin.

We condemn war, and we recognize we cannot stop it as divided communities. International Humanitarian Law provides a set of rules that seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. International Humanitarian Law is made up of treaties including the Geneva Conventions, which imposes limits on the means and methods of warfare and protects persons who do not, or no longer, take part in the fighting (including civilians, journalists, medics, aid workers, wounded, sick and stranded troops, prisoners of war or other detainees). The Geneva Conventions emphasize a moral and ethical obligation to protect innocent lives during conflicts.

The Sonoma County Commission of Human Rights recognizes the imperative need for adherence to the principles outlined in the Geneva Conventions and urges all sides to safeguard the lives of men, women, children, and those who have chosen to lay down their weapons. It is our sincere belief that advocating for the protection of non-combatants is a shared responsibility transcending borders, fostering a global commitment to ethical conduct. We condemn all terrorists. We call for the release of all hostages. The only way to find the beginnings of peace is through a ceasefire - a suspension of fighting so that peace talks may take place.

Only through collective action can we declare "enough is enough" and strive for a future marked by peace, love, and healing for all. The Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights acknowledges and condemns the rise of white nationalism, racism, anti-semitism and Islamophobia locally and throughout our nation. We call upon our community to build bridges of peace, love, and healing locally. Let this appeal be a beacon guiding us toward a shared commitment to humanity.